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**COMMUNICATION OF 25 JUNE 1998 RECEIVED FROM
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

Attached is a communication received from the Permanent Mission of India forwarding a statement by the Government of India, for the information of Member States.

For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number.



INFCIRC/568
Attachment

भारत का राजदूत, वियाना
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA, VIENNA

June 25, 1998

Dear Director General,

The Joint Ministerial Declaration released by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Slovenia, South Africa and Sweden has been circulated as an information document by the Agency to Member States at the request of the Permanent Mission of New Zealand (INFCIRC/565).

2. I would like to inform you that our Minister of State for External Affairs has already written to all the eight Foreign Ministers and has emphasised that the Declaration contains a number of valuable suggestions.

3. Meanwhile, the Government of India has also issued a press statement on this Joint Ministerial Declaration dated the 23rd June, 1998. A copy of this statement is enclosed.

4. I would be grateful if you could arrange to have the attached statement circulated as an information document to all Member States.

With assurances of my highest consideration,

Yogesh M. Tiwari
(Yogesh M. Tiwari)
Ambassador of India

H.E. Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei,
Director General,
International Atomic Energy Agency,
Vienna

Encl: as above

Government of India
Ministry of External Affairs

PRESS STATEMENT

We have seen a Joint Declaration by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Slovenia, South Africa and Sweden titled "Towards a Nuclear Weapon Free World: The Need for a New Agenda" of 9th June, 1998. The declaration contains a number of valuable suggestions which deserve consideration by the international community.

2. The Minister of State for External Affairs has written separately to the Foreign Ministers of these eight countries expressing readiness to cooperate with them in collective efforts for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free world in the coming millenium. This is in consonance with our past initiatives on nuclear disarmament which were premised on our conviction that the global elimination of nuclear weapons is the only way to enhance global security.

3. The declaration is a timely reminder that in spite of nearly a 70 resolutions of the UN General Assembly reflecting the will of the international community, decisive steps for creating a nuclear-weapon-free world have not still been taken. In her letter, the Minister of State for External Affairs has underlined that partial measures for non-proliferation will not work. The road map is clear - we have dealt with other categories of weapons of mass destruction i.e. chemical weapons and biological weapons by negotiating multilateral treaties that are comprehensive, universal and non-discriminatory. We need to adopt a similar approach to deal with nuclear weapons.

4. India's response to the Joint Declaration underscores the fact that as a nuclear weapon state, our commitment to pursuing global nuclear disarmament in order to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world remains undiluted.